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The Book of Artemas

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THE BOOK OF ARTEMAS

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*Concerning men, and the things
that men did do, at the time when
there was war*



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THE BOOK OF ARTEMAS

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CHAPTER I.

1 *The Chronicles of Artemas, the scribe.* 3 *The state of the land of Eur.* 4 *Concerning Willi, who ruled over the men of Hu.* 7 *Concerning Mud, that was his son.* 9 *Mud encourageth the ambitions of his father.* 19 *And sendeth in unto him a certain wise man.* 21 *The parable of the oak tree.* 26 *And the interpretation thereof.* 29 *Willi maketh him a war.*

THE words of Artemas of the scribes that *were* in Lon in the land of En.

2 Of the things that were and of the things that were to be: concerning men and the things that men did do.

3 ¶ Now there was peace over all the land

of Eur and amongst all the nations that abode there, it was a time of great content.

4 ¶ But Willi, who ruled over the men of Hu, was a crafty man and greedy, and *his ways* were devious.

5 And when he beheld the prosperity of the land and the industry of those that dwelt round about, and *that* they did live in peace, the one with the other, his heart grew black within him and his soul vomited envy.

6 *Moreover*, he was a proud man and ambitious withal. His covetousness was like unto a tree, that being planted in fertile ground, flourisheth mightily; and the independence of the

peoples *was* as gall unto his vanity.

7 ¶ Now the son of Willi was a young man, and he was puffed out with pride and his mind *was* empty; in his living, he was vicious, and his name, *it was* Mud.

8 And when Mud saw that his father's soul was torn with the violence *of* his envy and that he coveted that *which* was not his, it rejoiced him exceedingly.

9 ¶ And he laid *himself* out to entice his father, and did speak many specious words unto him, and was for ever *at him*.

10 And Mud said unto his father, All Highest, hail! And Willi answered him, saying, Thou *art* my son: And Mud said unto him, Great art thou above all the kings of the earth, for thou hast served the Lord faithfully throughout the days of thy life.

11 And Willi answered him, *saying*,

Verily have I found favour in the sight of the Lord; and in my sight has the Lord *also* found favour.

12 And Mud looked upon his father *from the side*; he gazed upon his countenance with a furtive look, and *did see* that his father's vanity was without bounds. So he spake unto him again, saying,

13 Thy shadow is as the sun whose rays bring forth warmth, *giving* life unto all them that are beneath it.

14 And Willi said, That *which* thou sayest is indeed true; yet doth the sun shine over all the world whilst my shadow is for ever at two hours *after* summer noon.

15 And Mud answered him, saying, In the evening of thy days *shall* thy shadow grow long, and it shall spread its shade over all the world; for *it is* a good world and deserveth well of

thee. And the Lord will surely reward thee for all thy righteousness.

16 And Willi said, Verily, art thou my son, and in wisdom art thou second only to thy father. I will make me a covenant with the Lord, and it shall come to pass that I *shall have* dominion over all the earth and over all the waters that are on the earth. And whatsoever shall be *left over*, that will I give unto the Lord for *to be* His own.

17 And I will *make* might right, and them that bow not down before me, those will I surely slay, both they and their wives and their children and the stranger that is within their gates. And their oxen will I take *as an offering* unto my Majesty. And their household goods shall be mine by the strength of my sword.

18 And he said unto

Mud, *that was* his son, Send thou unto me a wise man that I *may* take counsel of him.

19 ¶ And a *certain* man whose name was Bern was sojourning in the land, and him did Mud bring unto his father, *having* first instructed him privily.

20 And when he that *was* called Bern came into the presence of the king, he bowed him low, saying, Hail, O king!

21 ¶ And he began to speak, saying, There was a certain husbandman and he planted him an oak in a place *where* trees grew;

22 And it came to pass that the oak grew up and its roots spread themselves about. And *there was* not room enough in that place, and the trees that were planted there *before* rose up and choked it so that it did languish away until there was no sap remaining *in it*.

23 And when the husbandman saw *how* it was, he sent his servant with an axe and he told him to cut down *the trees* that were round about.

24 Yea, every tree except the oak did he command him to cut down, so that there *was* room, and the oak did flourish as the cedars *that are* in Lebanon, and its branches did sway them over all the world.

25 And Willi said unto him, Explain unto me the meaning of this parable, thou very wise man. *Of what* is the oak and *of what* the trees that were round about?

26 ¶ And Bern answered him, *saying*, The nurseryman is the Lord of Hosts. The oak that

He planted, it is thyself, O king; and the trees that would choke it, they are the nations that dwell round about.

27 The axe is thine army, and the servant of the husbandman is he whom thou *shalt make* to be the captain over all thine host.

28 And when Willi heard *the things* that the wise man did say, he was well pleased; wherefore he gave unto him a cross, and *it was* made of iron.

29 ¶ And *after* he had made him secret preparations, he went out with a great multitude of men and much munition, and he made him a war, *the* like whereof was never known on earth before.

CHAPTER II.

1 *Peace reigneth in En. 2 Internal discord is loosed. 4 The men of Ire have much power. 6 They obtain their demands. 12 Petty strife prevaieth. 14 The priests see wickedness everywhere. 19 The owners of ships raise their hire. 26 The rulers are blamed. 27 Concerning the war scribes.*

NOW there was peace throughout all the land of En, and the noise of battle *was* afar off. And the merchants of the world did bring their wares for to sell them, even fine cloth and spices *that were* rare did they bring in their ships.

2 ¶ But he that putteth away the sword doth loosen the tongue; wherefore it came to pass that *there was* great talk amongst the rulers, and the mighty men *did say* things, the one against the other.

3 And there were many jealousies amongst them, and they *did* utter spiteful sayings concerning each other; verily, they were like unto evil-minded children in a quarrel, and *their* pettiness of spirit was an abomination.

4 ¶ Now an House that is divided against itself *will stand* anything. And when men from the land of Ire took power into their own hands and did rule over En, *there was* no one amongst the rulers to say them nay.

5 And the men of Ire exacted tribute from the rulers, and the people of the land rebelled not; for penury *doth* bring forth wisdom, but prosperity breedeth only fools. And the prosperity of the land of En *was* great.

6 ¶ And when the

men of Ire saw that *all that* which they demanded was given unto them, they *did* make them long faces, and *did* grumble aloud, and *did* utter groans in the public places *and* strange noises in the portals of the House. And when they had thus prepared the way *for it*, they did straightways ask for more.

7 And a few that dwelt in the land of En *did make* them a stand, saying, What we have given unto you, *it is* enough. Therefore, get ye hence, ye men of Ire.

8 And the men of Ire waxed very wroth, and they did curse the men of En and did swear strange oaths *concerning them*, so that they that were weak amongst the rulers began to shiver in their sandals.

9 And they held them a council together *in* secret and did agitate themselves greatly, seek-

ing *for a means* whereby they might escape from the wrath of the men of Ire, for it was a terrible wrath, *being* very ugly.

10 And after one had said one thing and another had said another thing, then *did* all them that were gathered together make them an agreement, and they did give unto the men of Ire *all those things* that they had demanded.

11 And the men of Ire prepared them long faces and did get them ready *for* another occasion. Neither was the day ever known when any man *that was* from Ire did render thanks for that *which* he had received.

12 ¶ And class quarrelled with class, the artisan *with* the master, the noble *with* the serf, the priests *with* the people, and the fools *with* one another.

13 And all those that thought one thing did

contend with them that did think another thing, and the bickering *that was* between them, it was very great.

14 ¶ And there were those amongst the priests that *did* travel about the country, crying out in a loud voice, and saying, Wickedness! Wickedness! All is wickedness!

15 And they did say many things *concerning* the young men and *concerning* the damsels, and also *concerning* them both together. And those that listened unto them were amazed that such things should be; and some *there were* that doubted.

16 And the priests did raise their hands *unto* heaven, saying, Deliver us from evil. And the people did drop their hands *towards* the earth, saying, Deliver us from the priests.

17 And notwithstanding all that *which*

was said by the priests and by them that did *grub* into things, the wickedness of the people was in no wise greater than the wickedness *of the* other nations of the world.

18 And this was the state of the land of En when Willi did make him the War: but *afterwards*, it was different. For the rulers declared them a truce, and no longer cried out *after* one another in the public places; nevertheless, the ardour *of the* priests remained without abatement, and there were those amongst the newsmongers *on both sides* that did conceal their partisanship in an ill manner.

19 ¶ And because the land of En was built upon an island, therefore was it necessary for the food of the people *to be* brought unto them in ships.

20 And the men of Hu did sink of these

ships a few, and the rulers of the land *did* seize a great number of *them* for to carry the armies and the implements of war. Wherefore the number of *them* that were available for to bring the people's food, it *was* less than before.

21 And they that did own the ships that remained did make them new rates of freight *that were* twofold, *and* threefold, *and* fourfold greater than those that had been before.

22 And the merchants did make them higher prices for the wares that they did sell; and some did do so because *it was* forced upon them; and others did do so because they were greedy for the profits, wherefore they spake privily, the one unto the other, saying, See, brother, the opportunity is *upon* us.

23 And because it was *beyond* them and

they could devise no plan against it, therefore did the rulers of the land hold themselves aloof from all *these things* for a full two years.

24 Wherefore the people did pay them very dearly for everything that they did eat, and those that did sell merchandise in the market places, these grew fat in a lean time.

25 And when the people murmured, the rulers spake soft words unto them, saying, Assuredly is your lot cast in *an hard* place; even so, the straits of the men of Hu, are they not worse than yours? And because it *was* war, therefore *were* the people easily appeased.

26 ¶ Nevertheless, there were many that complained because the owners of the ships and those that sold the people's food did make them profits such as never before; and many

blamed the rulers that did countenance such things at a time when *there was war.*

27 ¶ Now there were *certain men* amongst the scribes and they did wage them the war *on paper.*

28 And, *of these,* Belloc did write him for the great captains and for them in authority, that *they might* read and learn and receive his commandments.

29 And Blatch did write him for the common soldier, wherefore the violence of his words was *a thing* for delight, demolishing all contrary argument.

30 And Garv did write him *so that* all might read. And because *there was* nothing that this man did leave unwritten, therefore did *those* that followed him

perforce forego their sabbath meal.

31 And there was also Horatio, being he that *did* for ever step into the breach; yea, even into the breach *that was not* there did he step; and he wrote *concerning* righteousness *and blood.*

32 And there were also others in great number, and all *did* write them freely and as men that *did* know.

33 And when the captains did not do those *things* that had been written down for *their* instruction, then was there much anger amongst the war scribes, and they did gnash their teeth *in rage.*

34 Wherefore they were continually provoked beyond endurance, and they wrote them *more* because of *it.*

CHAPTER III.

- 1 *The rulers in En.* 3 *Concerning Herbert.* 8. *Concerning David.* 11 *Concerning Winston.* 13 *Concerning Walter.* 14 *Concerning Reginald.* 19
Concerning Samuel. 20
Concerning Simon. 25
Concerning Masterman. 26 *Concerning Augustine.* 29 *Concerning Grey.* 33
Concerning John. 34
Concerning Haldane. 41
Concerning Tennant. 42
Concerning the other rulers.

NOW these were the rulers in the land of En in the days when George that *was* the Fifth did reign *and* the Great War *was begun.*

2 There was Herbert, and David, and Winston, and Walter, and Reginald, and Samuel, and Simon, and Masterman, and Augustine, and Grey, and John, and Haldane, and Tennant; and *there were*

also others, whereof the number was great beyond computation.

3 ¶ And Herbert was the man that was responsible unto the people, and he did take the head place at the table whereat the rulers did sit. And there was in him an abundance of patience such as no man did ever have *before*; and he did keep the rulers together, all in one body.

4 And in time of discord he was like unto a gentle shepherd *when* the rams do fight, and them that spake angrily in the council chamber he did soften with honeyed words.

5 Nevertheless, there were some that *did say* wicked things concerning him, and they did compare him unto a woman *that is advanced* in years.

6 And Herbert had

taken unto himself a wife.

7 And when *the time* came, he did leave the head place at the table whereat the rulers did sit, and he did go.

8 ¶ Now before that it *was* war, David was an hated man; yet was he also loved. And *afterwards* it came to pass that he was a much loved man, yet was he also hated.

9 And David did *many* things so that men spake about him, saying, Behold, he is like unto a skeleton key that fitteth all locks. And *whatsoever* there is need of, that thing will he surely do.

10 But *because* he was new made and *did* carry on, therefore he lost favour with certain of the Pharisees, and his name did *become* an abomination unto them. Yet, when *the time* came, he went up unto the head place at the

table whereat the rulers did sit.

11 ¶ Now Winston *was* a wild youth and rash, hot of the tongue and venturous in his undertakings. Nevertheless, *he was* not lacking in understanding.

12 And because he was like unto new wine when the vintage is good, therefore did they set him down in a place that was cool, *saying*, Peradventure, in a little time, there will be maturity.

13 ¶ And Walter was over all them that did deal in merchandise, and he sojourned amongst the rulers *during* many months. And the things that he *did* do, what man knoweth thereof? And when *the time* came, he did go.

14 ¶ Now Reginald was blessed with an heart that was overflowing *with* the milk of human kindness, and the lot of the immigrants from the land of Hu

did move him mightily, so that he *did weep* tears.

15 And there were many of these men in the land of En, some of *them* being there that they might make money, and some of *them* were come for to spy out the land.

16 But Reginald *did* scorn to make him a distinction between them, fearing lest some man should say, See, there is *one* that he favoureth.

17 Neither would he lay himself out to hinder any man that was earning his bread; and the spies *that were* in the land, it was their means of livelihood.

18 Therefore did he uphold them, each man in his place, *because* he *was* Reginald. Wherefore there were many that conceived him weak *unto* foolishness. And when *the time* came, he did go.

19 ¶ And unto Samuel was given power

over all the cities of En. And this man's name was not for ever in the mouths of the people, neither did they concern themselves at all *with the things* that he did do. Nevertheless, *he was* not an idle man. But when *the time* came, he did go.

20 ¶ Now Simon was a man that was strange in his beliefs, neither *was* he an help in time of trouble. And there were some that, seeking the reason for his *falling away* in the time of his country's tribulation, did say he was *possessed* of a devil.

21 And he was a man peaceable beyond all reason, *so that* he did put himself against the patriots of the land of En when they did set them out for to wage war in a cause that *was* just.

22 And because he and those that were with him *were* as a voice that crieth in the

wilderness, therefore he did get him out from the inner chamber wherein did sit the rulers of the land, and he *did* make one cause with them *that did* for ever carp and cavil.

23 And when the counsellors assembled together for to make them ordinances *for the* salvation of the country, then would Simon rise upon his feet and he would make him an objection; therefore was he an hindrance unto them that did strive *against* the perils that beset the land.

24 And Simon was not loved in the country of En. Yet was he earnest in the things that he did do, being a man with a conviction *that is* founded amiss.

25 ¶ And he that was chief amongst all the rulers did say, on an occasion, Find thou me *the* man; then will I find *the* office. So they found him Masterman.

And when *the* time came, he did go.

26 ¶ Now Augustine was a great sage, and there was no man in all the land of En that did surpass him in the knowledge *that is* gotten of books. *Therefore* they did make him to rule over the land of Ire.

27 And on a time when he was deep in engagement with the words of the ancient Greeks, behold, the men of Ire stole up secretly and they fell upon his servants *so that* many of them did die.

28 And when it was told unto Augustine what the men of Ire *had* done unto his servants, he was filled with a great wonder and his breast was torn with sorrow. And because it was *a thing* that liked him not, therefore did he remove *himself* from amongst the seats of the rulers, neither returned he thither again.

29 ¶ Now the chief of the scribes that did write unto the rulers of the nations *concerning* matters, his name was Grey, And he did *send* him epistles unto the four corners of the earth, *saying* this and *saying* that.

30 And to him there were given many tasks that were difficult, and he did not always find favour with the people; for there are some that look *from afar* towards the end, but the stones *that are* upon the way, them do they count not at all.

31 And it was said concerning him that he was a man of strength in time of stress, but in the *leading up* and *afterwards*, then was he weak as twine that is boiled, and slow as water standing in a pond.

32 But many of the things that he *did* do were good, and his name was not without honour in the land. Yet when

the time came, he did go.

33 ¶ John, that was also called Honest, was another of them that *believed* not in war. Therefore he did hide himself away in the shadows of oblivion; but he hindered not the rulers in their endeavour.

34 ¶ Now Haldane was the Keeper of the King's Conscience in the land of En, and he was a man that *was* learned in the ways of the men of Hu, for his spirit abode amongst them; and the King of Hu, he *did* love him as a brother.

35 And the time came when all the people cried out with a loud voice, saying, Haldane must go! But because the winds did blow in an *high quarter*, he heard them not.

36 And there was a certain man and his name was Northcliffe. And it came to pass that

when *he* cried out, behold, his voice *did* rise *even as* the winds, and it was above the shouts of all the other people.

37 And when Northcliffe had raised his voice for a long time so that his throat was raw, being like unto the flesh of a kid *that is* newly killed,

38 And when all the people had joined with him, shouting in a mighty voice that did *shake* the seats of the rulers with the violence of its clamour,

39 Then did Haldane hear, and he hearkened unto them.

40 And the people rejoiced them exceedingly, thinking it not good for one that had been *in with* the men of Hu to

hold an high position in the land.

41 ¶ Now Tennant was adroit of the tongue. And when certain *of the* counsellors questioned him closely, seeking that they might entrap him, he would answer them with a multitude of words; nevertheless would he not say *anything*. And when *the time* came, he did go.

42 ¶ And concerning the *other* rulers of the land of En *at the beginning* of the Great War, is it not written in the Book of Stubbs? Both their names and the streets wherein they did have *their* habitations, thou shalt find them in that Book in *the order* that is of the alphabet.

CHAPTER IV.

1 *The caution of the rulers.*
 4 *They make them a censor.* 11 *The people complain.* 14 *They tell the people more.* 15 *And appoint Balf to speak concerning the navy.* 20 *He doeth so.* 26 *And becometh a laughing stock.*

NOW when the rulers of the land made them a war, they became very wary, fearing lest their enemies should discover *those things* that they had in store for them.

2 And they said, the one unto the other, It were prudent to say nothing unto the common people *concerning* what we have done. In this manner shall we preserve their peace of *mind*, and it will be a means also whereby we may throw dust in the eyes of the men of Hu. But *after* it is all over,

then will we tell the people.

3 And because the thing that they did contemplate was not possible, *therefore* were they constrained to tell unto the people *certain things* concerning the war and *how* went the day.

4 ¶ Nevertheless, they *were* affrighted lest the people should learn *too much*, and so they made them a censor. And this *was* one that would say, This is so, and this only; the rest, *it is* not so.

5 And they that sold news unto the people were vastly provoked, for it liked them not to be told *the things* that they should say; also was it an hindrance *unto them* to be circumscribed by the truth.

6 And when they came into the presence of the censor and bowed themselves low before

him (for he was a great man), he *would* have none of them.

7 And he would say unto them, These three lines, *they are* official: but the other things that *have* happened, they did happen not at all.

8 And those amongst the newsdealers that did *know something* would foam at the mouth in the violence of their rage. And *they* would spit upon the floor and would utter deep curses.

9 And because *he was* an orderly man, therefore did the censor make him a scheme for the better administration of all *those things* that were within his authority. And the scheme that he did make, *it was* this.

10 After a thing had become known in the land of Hu for *the space* of thirty days, then would he deliberate in his mind concerning it. And if it seemed good *unto him*, after seven

days had passed he would impart it unto the people.

11 ¶ And there was a great outcry throughout all the land, for this was but one of *many things*. Verily, the patience of Job was not tried as the patience of the men of En in the days when they waged war.

12 And the people said unto the rulers, Why do ye these things, ye *men* of little understanding? Are we children that ye treat us thus, and have ye no faith in the strength of *our* conviction?

13 *All those things* that are safe for us to know, them shall ye tell unto us. And if the tidings be good, assuredly we will rejoice. And if the tidings be bad, they shall but serve to fortify our purpose. The tempest disturbeth the waters, the tempest *revealeth* the rock.

14 ¶ And the rulers heard what the people

did say, and they hearkened unto them. And *they said* unto him that was the censor, The people are complaining *because* they know not how goes the day. Therefore shalt thou tell them more about it: but take care that *it be* not much more. And he did that which the rulers had told him to do.

15 ¶ And the rulers of the land did also call *unto them* a certain man, and his name *was* Balf. And he was over all the vessels of war, a mighty force, supreme *upon* the seas.

16 And they said *unto him*, Because thou *art* thou, therefore shalt thou say unto the people whatsoever seemeth good unto thee.

17 For thou hast a wise head *and* a still tongue, and whatsoever thou sayest, *it will* not be too much.

18 Now it came to pass that the vessels of the men of En did fight

with the vessels of the men of Hu in a great battle, and it raged for a *long* time.

19 And before it was come to an end, behold, the vessels of the men of Hu did steal away quickly and did *hide them* in a mist, for the day had not gone well with them, and *they were* sore afflicted.

20 ¶ And when word was brought unto Balf *concerning* the battle, and *concerning* the numbers that had perished on both sides, he did call the people unto him, and he spake unto them, saying,

21 Woe is this day that hath brought desolation unto En. Know ye, O my brothers, *how many* be slain of them that sailed against the men of Hu? Assuredly, the number thereof, it is very great. And of the vessels of war, *there be* many destroyed. Verily is this a day *that is* full of woe.

22 And when the people heard that *which* he did say unto them, they were perturbed beyond measure, fearing they knew not what.

23 And after a certain time had passed by, he called the people unto him again, and he spake unto them, saying, *Wherefore* are ye perturbed and *why* cast down?

24 Listen unto me, ye men of gloom, and rejoice at my words. For in that battle whereof I have told you, *many* perished that sailed from En; but amongst the men of Hu there was carnage *that was* great

beyond compare. And that day did see our adversary vanquished in the fight.

25 And they that heard him were amazed and said, the one unto the other, What *strange* fruits, *these*, of his philosophy!

26 ¶ But the newsmongers gloried in his foolishness, *because* he was the mouthpiece of the rulers.

27 Nevertheless, he that *was* the censor relaxed not his vigilance, so that nothing was known in the land of En save only *those things* that were necessary for to quiet the people.

CHAPTER V.

1 *Concerning the changes that were wrought by the war.* 2 *The debtors are given grace.* 4 *Strong drink becometh hard to get.* 10 *It groweth difficult to make a journey.* 16 *The bazaars are closed at an early hour.* 20 *Much money is earned by the workers.* 22 *The manner of spending it.*

AND these are *certain* of the things that did come to pass in the land of En during the days of the Great War.

2 ¶ Now immediately that there *was* war, grace was given unto them that were in debt; and that which they did owe, for a certain time *they did* not pay it.

3 Therefore was the war a mixed blessing unto such as *these*, and in those places *that are* beyond the Gate of Notting Hill, the days of

grace were welcomed with the sound of timbrels and there was much rejoicing.

4 ¶ And those that drank not strong drink set them to work. And they concealed *their purpose* beneath the shadow of the war, and they prevailed upon the rulers *to be* an help unto them.

5 And so *it was* that the doors of the taverns were closed against the people save only for five hours during the day; neither was it lawful *for them* to buy any strong drink from the publicans *except* at the time appointed.

6 In this wise did the water bibbers advantage their object, for they had rightly conceived that the war *was* an hefty lever wherewith to work their will.

7 And those that drank of the juice of the

grape did become quick *at the* swallow, for the time that they did have, it *was* short.

8 And the preachers and all those that *did* meddle with the independence of the people were filled with pious joy, and they rejoiced in their tabernacles of stone and of tin, and in their habitations *also*, saying, Thus are the wicked punished *and* the thirsty sent empty away.

9 And because the publicans were the people to *go for*, and they did know it, therefore did they not complain; and the *cocoa* gulpers triumphed on that day.

10 ¶ Now there were many sojourning in the land of En that came of an hostile country. And because *they were* a danger unto the state, therefore did the rulers make *new* laws concerning *them*.

11 And to *this* end, whosoever did travel

unto certain places was commanded to write him his name in a book that *was* at the inn where he did rest.

12 Now when a man and a woman did journey unto the sea and did sojourn there *for a* week-end, then would they say unto all and sundry, Behold, a priest has licensed us to *do* this thing, for *we are* wed.

13 And sometimes it *was* so: but there were some that did lie about it, hoping *perchance* to save them lodgment money, or fearing to offend the righteous.

14 Therefore was the new law a cause of vexation *unto them*, for to write in a book their true names, it was not wise; and to write them names that were false, it was a dangerous thing *and* costly withal.

15 And though many complained in secret, nevertheless, there was no *change* made in the

law, for the rulers of the land did rightly own no knowledge *touching* such affairs; and they that *did* transgress did pay the penalty.

16 ¶ And *it was* ordained that all the bazaars throughout the land should close them their doors at eight hours after midday.

17 Yea, even *unto them* that sold tobacco and unto the vendors of sweet stuffs was the mandate sent. And *because* these were used to ply their trades by night as well as by day, therefore did the order seem the more amazing unto them.

18 And the damsels liked it not *because of* their stomachs. And when a man did go for to buy him cigarettes and *it was* too late, he would utter maledictions upon the doorstep; and the next time he *would* remember.

19 And in the time of his extremity the mar-

ried man did borrow from his wife; and *it did* cost him dear because she *did have* her price. Verily, whatsoever she desired, that did she get *out of* him, for the moment *was* favourable unto her purpose.

20 ¶ And many were put to labour on munitions, and they *did* work them long hours at a goodly recompense.

21 And when the week *was come* unto its end, then did they receive their hire; and because *it was* a lot of money, they knew not what *to do* with it.

22 ¶ And some bought them musical instruments; wherefore was there great complaining *amongst* those that lived round about, for the noise that they did *make* was as the harmony of the damned.

23 And amongst the women, there were *some* that bought them feathers and ribands of a

gaudy hue; and they adorned *themselves* most wonderfully.

24 And whensoever they ventured forth into the public places, there *was* a stir amongst the populace. Yea, verily, from the north *unto* the south, and from the east *unto* the west, wheresoever they appeared, the people were amazed at the strangeness of their garb.

25 But there were many that *being* full of wisdom and aflame with love of En, did lend a part of that *which* they earned unto the rulers of the land *for* to buy them munitions of war.

26 And, howsoever much it was, it did breed them profits during every year that it was *away*, so that they prospered and became men of substance.

27 Nevertheless, there was fear *in them* that when the war was come to an end the rulers

would take from each *so much*, saying unto him, A good and faithful servant has thou been and prudent, and thou *wast* an help unto us *when* we had need of thee. And now, listen:

28 Inasmuch as thy brothers have wasted their substance on idle *things* of no account, therefore are they become paupers, and they *are* hungerstarved.

29 But thou *hast* been saving in the past and thine hire has bred thee profits. Thy foresight has delivered thee from want *during* all the days of thy life.

30 Therefore shalt thou pay so much *unto each* of thy poor brethren, for in this wise they shall have subsistence that *will* keep them safe from want.

31 And the wasters winked them each the *left* eye, for they knew full well that when *the time* came that they were impoverished, then

would the thrifty ones
be taxed for to feed
them.

32 For the frugal

man *shall* sweat; but the
waster, he shall lap it
up. And so *it was* in
the land of En.

CHAPTER VI.

1 *The chief amongst the tax gatherers speaketh unto the people.* 5 *They hearken unto him.* 9 *Wherefore the price of paper increaseth.* 12 *The people are divided amongst themselves concerning the notes of paper.* 17 *The nature thereof.* 19 *The people lend their money unto the rulers.* 26 *And the land of En becometh mighty.*

AND because there was war, therefore did he that was chief amongst the tax gatherers send word unto the people regarding *what* they should do. And he said unto them, Harken unto me, all ye men of wealth, and *obey* my behests.

2 Ye know that the hosts of En *are* gone out against a mighty enemy, against a strong foe and one *that is* wary. And his armaments are terrible beyond anything seen by men before.

Therefore it behoves us to gird up our loins for the fray, because it will be a fight *unto* the death.

3 And all the gold that ye have, that bring ye *unto me*, and I will give you notes *that are* of paper in place *of it*. And whatsoever ye may buy with gold, *that* may ye also buy with the notes of paper.

4 And our strength will be great amongst the nations, for gold *maketh* a good ambassador. And we will buy us deadly engines of war and munitions in a great quantity, for a long purse *sufficeth* in all things.

5 ¶ And so the people *did* bring gold unto the rulers, some in pieces of ten, some in pieces of an hundred, and some in pieces of a thousand. Verily, *whatever* gold the people did have,

that did they bring with them.

6 And as the people delivered their gold unto *the one* appointed, he would say unto them, How many pieces of gold hast thou brought, brother? And he would answer them, *saying*, Such and such a number have I brought.

7 And he would exchange him the gold for notes of paper, *even* one note of paper for each piece of gold that *he did* bring with him.

8 And the weight of gold that was exchanged in those days, it was very heavy, *so that* it did take seven hundred seventy and seven thousands of elephants for to move it.

9 ¶ And the number of the notes of paper was *beyond* all counting. Wherefore there was a dearth of paper in the land and the price of it became an high one.

10 And they that

were dealers in books demanded five shekels of silver for their wares; and *before*, they did ask only four shekels of silver and six pieces of copper.

11 Nevertheless, there yet remained *some* in the land that bought them books *for* to read: and *the rest* of the people, recking not the waste of paper, did take up their pens, and they did write. And Artemas, the scribe, he *was* one of these.

12 ¶ And because it was not the custom in the land of En to use notes of paper, save amongst them *that were* rich, therefore were the people divided among themselves *concerning it*, whether it were for an advantage.

13 And those that were careless in their manner of living, they liked it not. But the others, they *were* content, for the notes of paper were without

weight, and the space that they did occupy, it *was* small.

14 And when a man, *thinking* it a bill that was not paid, did throw away a note of paper that was worth twenty shekels of silver, then would he curse aloud, using *new* words, and he would affright the passers-by with the violence of his lamentations.

15 And because the notes of paper were thin and *did* stick themselves *together*, therefore did a debtor, *being* unaware, sometimes give the worth of two pieces of gold unto him to whom he owed but one.

16 And this man *also* would sorrow cursefully and he *would* tear his hair. And Willi, *that was* the cause of it, he would consign him unto the nethermost part of Hell.

17 ¶ And the notes of paper *were* not alike, being writ in two col-

ours; and the one colour, it was black, *and* the other colour, *it was* red.

18 And one of *those* that were writ in black was as much as two that were writ in red; wherefore, and because they were passing rare, they found great favour in the eyes of the people.

19 ¶ Now it came to pass that the rulers did *have* a need of money for to buy them implements of war. And they sent word unto the people *concerning* it.

20 And immediately there arrived at the receipt of custom a great multitude of men, each man bearing upon his back a weight of money, *according* to his means. And they jostled, the one against the other, in their haste *to be* first.

21 And they said unto the rulers of the land, All that which we have brought with us, that do we lend unto you. Go ye out, *therefore*, and

buy ye the things *that* are necessary. Neither shall ye stint yourselves in the matter, but rest assured that whatsoever more ye shall require, it *shall be* forthcoming.

22 And the notes of paper that they did bring unto the rulers of the land were *in number* as the blades of grass in a meadow that extendeth out of sight. Yea, even *more* than the words of the rulers was the number thereof, *notwithstanding* that the jaws of these were for ever agitated.

23 So the rulers of the land did set out for to buy them munitions of war in a great quan-

tity; even all that *which* they did require did they set out for to buy.

24 And all the merchants of the world came in *unto them* and displayed their wares before them; and they *were* eager for to make the bargain and to traffick with the rulers.

25 For the power of money was great in that time, and *the things* that it could not do, they *were* not.

26 ¶ And *because* the people brought unto the rulers money that *was* of a value beyond calculation, therefore was the might of En felt *throughout* all the world.

CHAPTER VII.

1 *The country is bereft of its young men.* 2 *The rulers send unto the women.* 3 *Who make them munitions of war.* 4 *And sell merchandise in the bazaars.* 8 *And watch over the people.* 11 *They receive much money.* 14 *Concerning a certain man that imbibed too freely.* 23 *The women work on the land.* 34 *They rebel.*

NOW it came to pass that all the young men went forth for to fight, and there remained only those that were old or infirm and some that had sneaked them through.

2 ¶ And because there was much work to be done, therefore did the rulers of the land send word unto the women, saying, Come ye unto the workshops of the cities and there do all those things that the young men were wont to do. And they came

as with one accord.

3 ¶ And they did make them munitions of war of many kinds, and did become skilled artificers, both in metal and in wood; and they rested not from their labours, save only on the days appointed.

4 ¶ And there were others that did sell merchandise in the bazaars. And so it fell out that when a man went forth for to buy him under-vestments, the damsel that was in the bazaar would say unto him, What is thy need, O son of man?

5 And he was ashamed to tell her *all that* which was in his heart, and he knew not what to say; wherefore was he halting in his speech and his countenance did take on the colour of blood.

6 But the maiden that did tend unto his wants, she was in no wise dis-

quieted, and she did beseech him to impart unto her the name of *the thing*.

7 And, afterwards, she did hold up the leg of the garment for appraisalment and did raise her voice in praise of it. And the young man was brought into a *proper state* upon the instant, so that he did buy whatsoever she did shew unto him. And his going out from that place *was* quicker than his coming in.

8 ¶ And there were women appointed for to see that the people did no wrong thing. And certain of these did betake them on the dark nights unto the quiet places *at a time* when the mating season was nigh.

9 And they did flash them a light *on those* that were unready; but those that did know *about it*, them did they find better circumstanced.

10 And the people liked it not, for there was no place that was safe unto them, and the course of true love was *an hard one* and much beset with spies.

11 ¶ And because the women were given high places in the land, therefore was their recompense high *also*, and the money that they did earn, *it was* a large sum.

12 And so it came to pass that certain men that were mean of spirit forsook their labours and *became* idle. And when men spake unto them *concerning it* and upbraided them, they answered them, saying, Wherefore should we go *about it*? And why should we toil? Are not our wives diligent, and do they not provide for us according to their means?

13 And they that heard them were filled with a great aversion, and they were glad in their hearts that in all

the land of En there *were* few men like unto these.

14 ¶ Now there was a *certain* man and he did imbibe of the juice of the grape in a manner that was not wise.

15 And every night when he returned unto his habitation he was full up with strong drink; and because he sought his bedchamber *in vain*, therefore would he make him a couch upon the mat *that was* nigh unto the gate.

16 And it was a sore trial unto his wife, *for* she knew not what to do. And she did cast about in her mind, seeking to devise some means whereby to make him whole.

17 And because she was a woman wise beyond the most, being also strong and lusty, *therefore* did she contrive a plan; and she became one *of them* that looked after the people.

18 And the same

night when her husband returned unto her, walking in soulful meditation *because* he was drunk, then did she go forth for to greet him; and she came *upon him* in the way.

19 And she called unto her two women, mighty of stature, that were lying in ambush near by. And the muscles of their arms were *of a* size and their strength was very great. And they *took* him.

20 And it came to pass upon the morrow that he was brought *before* the judge. And when he had heard all that the women had to say, he said unto him, Assuredly *thou art* a guilty man.

21 For thine indiscretion thou shalt be mulcted in forty shekels of silver; and if thou payest not *upon* the nail, then shalt thou be cast into prison, there to remain *during* fourteen days.

22 And because he was a wise man when the morning *was come*, therefore he *paid* up; and he returned unto his home much chastened. And from that day forth he put all strong drink away from him, wherefore he *was* called Tam-ed, which signifieth, One that hath *been* through it.

23 ¶ Now when the harvest was ripe, and there were no labourers in the fields for to gather it in, the husbandmen *that were* on the land became cast down and they did make them an outcry.

24 And certain women approached unto them, and said, Wherefore are ye cast down, ye wealthy *men* of the fields?

25 Behold, we and our sisters will gather in the standing corn, and *in the* winter we will prepare the ground for the crops that are *to be*.

26 And because it is

not *in them* to be otherwise, therefore the husbandmen changed not their countenances that were woeful; but they said unto the women,

27 Forget ye not that *ye are* what ye are. Nevertheless, because ye say it, *therefore* it shall be so. First shall ye reap the harvest, and afterwards shall ye do the *other* things whereof ye speak.

28 And so the women laboured all day in the fields. And they did take them cooling drinks *amongst* the corn when the sun was high, and they did eat cream *that was* rich unto yellowness, and *also* pasties in abundance. Nevertheless, when night was come they *did* sleep; neither did the things that they had eaten lie heavy upon *their* stomachs.

29 And so the harvest was gathered in and there was much rejoicing because *of it*. But

amongst the husbandmen there was only foreboding, for *such* do never rejoice.

30 And when the cold of the year was come, the husbandmen spake unto the women, saying, Now *is* the time when ye shall go forth to prepare the ground for the crops that are *to be*.

31 And so the women went forth. And when they had come unto the place appointed, behold, there was a great heap before them, and *it was* manure. And the husbandmen drew nigh and they said unto the women,

32 All this shall ye spread upon the fields, and *more* also. And it shall come to pass, after that *ye have* digged it in, that the earth shall be renewed; and the crops that ye shall sow, *these* shall flourish exceedingly. And the husbandmen went their way.

33 Now the heap *that was* manure, it was an abomination; and the stink thereof was so great that the women did cover over their nostrils with cambric and with pieces of fine lace.

34 ¶ And they followed *after* the husbandmen with one accord, and spake unto them, saying, We did gather in your corn, *even* the oats and the barley did we reap for you: and the hay, we did *make* it into stacks.

35 And the husbandmen answered them, *saying*, Verily all these things whereof ye speak, *them* did ye do.

36 And the women said unto them, The scent of the harvest was sweet unto our nostrils; but this heap *that is* manure, it is a stinking thing, and we will have none of it.

37 So they turned them about and hied them unto the cities for to become scribes. And

they *did* spend the wages of their first week's hire upon a measure of choice per- fume. Nevertheless, the stink of the heap *that was* manure abode with them during many days.

CHAPTER VIII.

1 *The rulers make them new laws.* 2 *And close the bazaars.* 5 *They give more light.* 9 *They tax the profits that were made because of the war.* 13 *Bribery flourisheth.* 15 *The petrol is conserved.* 18 *They that seek after pleasure are taxed.* 20 *The taxes are paid gladly.* 23 *Concerning commissions.* 29 *And Northcliffe.*

TAKE heed, all ye that read, and pay attention, for *these* are the things that the rulers of the land of En *did* lay upon the people at a time when there was war.

2 ¶ Now they did make them a law and did enjoin upon all the dealers in merchandise that *they should* cease from trafficking in the market places in the youth of the night; yea, at eight hours *after* midday were they constrained to stop from

selling their wares and merchandise.

3 And the reason thereof was uncertain, some saying it was *for a means* of saving fuel, whilst others did say it was because those that served in the bazaars *were* few and needed them rest.

4 But there were many that did say *it was* but the spirit of interference that was rife in the land; and they were filled *with* suspicion, thinking that the *early* closers were grinding them *their* axe.

5 ¶ And in the summer season the rulers did give unto the people more light. And *it was* the light of day that they bestowed, but upon *the doings* of the war they shed no more light.

6 Now the giving of more light was one of the things that the rul-

ers did wisely, *wherefore* the people did praise them; and they were amazed, for it was not the custom amongst the men of En to praise the rulers *of* the land.

7 Neither was there *often* cause therefor, for a wise ruler is precious *beyond* price, howbeit many a fool is raised unto an high place;

8 For the fool speaketh *sometimes* wisdom, and it is recorded. But the foolishness of fools do men forget.

9 ¶ And certain men did set them about for to find a means whereby they might *make* a good *thing* out of the war.

10 And when word was brought unto the rulers *concerning* what they were doing, they did make them a law. And they did take unto themselves a certain share from the profits that *these* men did gather in.

11 And those that were at one with the

patriots complained not; and those *that were* making them *enough*, neither did these complain.

12 And they that *did* do things for the rulers *out of* the generosity of their hearts, even these went not empty away.

13 ¶ And there were certain men amongst the servants of the rulers that did ask for *sweet* oil, and they *did* say unto the traders, Grease thou the palms of our hands that we *may* bargain with thee to thy advantage.

14 And those that *were* found out were cast into prison, and their names did stink *most* vilely *throughout* the length and breadth of the land.

15 ¶ And because it was a prudent thing *to do*, the rulers gave unto them that had chariots only *so much* of what men called petrol as was left *over*. And the

hosts of En did receive their portion before all others.

16 Therefore those that were wealthy amongst the people used not their chariots *save* when there was need; and they that were *used* to joy ride, they did do so no more.

17 For in all matters were the people ready to make them sacrifices *unto* the needs of the war, and they did do all *those things* that were *required of them* for to bring nearer the end of *it*.

18 ¶ And a tax *was made* upon all those that did go unto the theatre; yea, even upon them that did view the pictures and upon them that did watch men playing *with* a ball, *was* the tax imposed.

19 And because it *was not much*, and was, moreover, a righteous tax, they did pay it gladly; and the number of them that *did* go

unto such places, it was not less *than* before.

20 ¶ And there were other taxes also and they were exceeding heavy, *so that* all the money that was paid by the people unto the tax gatherers *was* great beyond anything that men had thought possible.

21 Nevertheless *there was* no murmuring in the land, and the people did push, the one against the other, *to be* first at the receipt of custom, every man *with* his money in his hand.

22 And he that was the chief amongst all the tax gatherers was amazed. And he spake unto *several* concerning it, saying, Are not these that do shower their gold *upon* me the same that before did curse my name? When I asked for a mite, *they* reviled me shamefully; yet, now I ask for much, behold, they bring it *flowing over*. For he understood not that this *was*

the spirit of the nation.

23 ¶ Now when there was any matter that was *beyond* the rulers so that they knew not what to do, they would appoint them a commission for to inquire *concerning* it.

24 And a commission was an assembly of wise men *that were* sometimes foolish; and they would gather themselves together, and they would question all and sundry, and they would talk.

25 But lest they should do *some thing* in their carryings on, the rulers would give them instruction and would speak unto them, saying,

26 Go ye into a room apart and *gather round*. And send the young men into the highways and into the byways that *they may* bring unto you all them that know aught concerning *the matter*. And whatsoever they may say

unto you, that shall ye hear.

27 Afterwards, ye shall make us a report, for *that* doeth injury unto no man. But woe be unto you if ye shall do *anything* that exceedeth our commandment; verily shall our wrath burn thee up, and thy bones shall fall away into dust.

28 By this means did the rulers put away for a long time those things that *were* vexatious unto them, having faith in the memory of the people that *it was* short. Therefore was a commission unto the rulers as a bag of sand unto him that fighteth, for it was a *shield*. And the day was not known *whereon* the rulers appointed them not a commission.

29 ¶ But there was a *certain* man and his name was Northeliffe. And the people were divided into two camps *concerning* him, some

saying that he *was* a raiser of scares, whilst others did say that he *knew things*. And all were agreed that he was a thorn in the side of the rulers.

30 And when a commission did bring its report unto the rulers, then did *these* retire unto the privacy of their bed chambers. And the report they did take *with them* for to be a pillow unto their heads.

31 And Northcliffe would raise his voice on high and he would say many bitter words. And he would arouse them and would make them *to do* things.

32 And though many were against him *because of it*, the good that he did do was manifest. And because he left not the rulers to sleep, therefore did men call him Helsabout, *which meaneth* The Awakener.

CHAPTER IX.

1 *Darkness in the cities. 5 The young things rejoice. 7 And love flourisheth. 10 Many errors are committed. 14 Concerning what happened unto a certain young man. 27 The reason thereof. 30 One pardoneth the little boys.*

NOW the rulers sent them word unto all the cities, saying, Let *there* be no light; and there was no light.

2 And every man did hide his candle under a bushel, else did he pay for his rashness in many shekels of silver. Yea, *there was* even darkness upon the highways and in those places *where* the people *did* pass to and fro. And the darkness did breed confusion.

3 Now they that lived in Lon were in two minds concerning it. And some that did sell merchandise in the ba-

zaars, they did make them a noise, being perturbed *because of* their pockets. And there were others that did utter loud manifestations of joy. And the old women that were there, *these* ventured not forth after the sun was set.

4 And they that were dealers in merchandise did make loud lamentations and did put on sackcloth and ashes, saying, *Wherefore* should we sit in darkness? And why cry our wares *in the shadow*? And because men knew them, therefore they heeded them not.

5 ¶ But amongst the *young things* of the city there was great rejoicing, for the mandate, it was welcome unto them.

6 And they said, the one unto the other, Behold, it is dark. Let us, *therefore*, advantage ourselves somewhat.

7 ¶ And they did hie them in pairs unto the quiet places; verily, every male did take with him a female as *his* companion, and they did talk of love.

8 And because the Bishop of that city was *against* love, and because there were many sojourning there *that did* pry, therefore did the swains speak *low*, fearing lest the eavesdroppers should come upon them.

9 And there were *many* that did plight their troths, because it was their opportunity; and many promises *were* given in vain.

10 ¶ And because it was dark, women of strange countenance *did* get them off *with men*, for a cheek that was fair as the petals of the hysop was *of* no avail in the night time.

11 Even so, there was many a woman that did lose *her man* ere the passing of the first

lamp. And he that was once bit, on the next occasion he did carry a torch in his hand for to see what *it was*.

12 And if a man *did* bump him into his own wife, he would say polite things, *for* he did not know her;

13 And because he did say polite things, *there -e*, neither would she know him. And strange *things* did happen because of it.

14 ¶ Now it came to pass that a certain man was returning *unto* his habitation at an hour when the night was far gone.

15 And it was the custom in that city to travel in a carriage that did go in part beneath the ground; and the reason thereof was *because it was* quick.

16 And, behold, as he proceeded on his way and was come nigh unto the place of his abode, suddenly a great darkness overcame him so

that he became as one that is blind.

17 And all the people that were with him in the carriage were dismayed and they did rise upon *their* feet, and *did* mingle, the one with the other.

18 And he that had authority in *that* carriage spake unto them and commanded them that they should sit down. And they sat them down.

19 And it came to pass that, after the young man had sat him down, behold, his right hand was taken from him and it *was* squeezed.

20 And even as he pondered on this strange thing that was happening unto him, behold, he was bereft of his left hand also, and it *was* squeezed.

21 And he was taken unawares and knew not what to do, for he was a young man and righteous, and *he was* married unto a wife.

22 Therefore, he sat him still and did wait for whatsoever might come unto him. And, lo, presently there *was* a kiss given unto him upon the left cheek; and, afterwards, was there a kiss upon his right cheek also.

23 Yea, both upon the right cheek and upon the left cheek did he get him the kisses, and it *was* for a long *time*.

24 And the kisses that *did fall* upon his left cheek were a warming lot and pleasurable; and the others, they were cold. Therefore did he turn him about for to lean towards the side that *was* hot.

25 And, behold, his cheeks were seized upon the instant between two hands that were soft; and the one that was upon his left side did kiss him with *earnestness* upon the mouth so that he trembled at the touch. And because he

was *become* enamoured of the pastime, therefore did he return the kiss *for a long spell*.

26 And even while it yet happened, the light was returned unto the carriage, and he *did* see.

27 ¶ And, behold, upon his right hand did sit a man that was lately come back from the wars; and she *that was* upon his left hand was a damsel very comely to look upon and blushing red.

28 And because it was a mistake, therefore was he not kissed *again* either upon the right cheek, or upon the left cheek, or yet upon the mouth.

29 And when he returned him unto his house, he did get him silently *unto* his bed-chamber. Neither told he his wife anything about it, fearing lest *she would* not understand.

30 ¶ And concerning another man, it is writ-

ten that he did tie a piece of white cloth unto *the gate* of his house so that he *might* know its whereabouts when the moon was not high.

31 And the small boys of the neighbourhood *did* come and they took away the piece of white cloth that was upon the gate and they did tie it unto the portal of an house wherein there lived a *certain* woman, of pleasing mien and fair to look upon; and her husband was gone to the wars.

32 And when the young man returned unto his habitation, behold, the piece of cloth that he did leave, it was not there; and he *was* deceived so that he entered in unto the wrong house.

33 Nevertheless, the young man *did* forgive the boys of the neighbourhood for *the thing* that they had done unto him.

CHAPTER X.

1 *The beginning of Flag Days.* 7 *The nature thereof.* 10 *The plight of the males.* 14 *Their efforts to escape.* 17 *The generosity of the people.* 19 *The disadvantage of a new alliance.*

NOW it came to pass that those who *were* in the land of En made them a custom, and they did sanctify certain days of the year unto charity.

2 And the days that were sanctified they *did* call Flag Days.

3 Now these are certain of the Flag Days that were set aside unto charity in the land of En in the days of the Great War.

4 There was Our Day, and Star and Garter Day, and Roll of Honour Day, and Red Cross Day, and 'Blue Cross Day.

5 And there was

France's Day, and Russia's Day, and Serbia's Day, and Italy's Day, and Montenegro's Day, and Roumania's Day, and Portugal's Day.

6 And there were other Flag Days in great number so that I, even I, Artemas, the scribe, remember not one half.

7 ¶ And on a day that was a Flag Day the young maidens of the cities would gather themselves together ere the morning was weaned, and they would *set out*.

8 And they would hie them unto the populous places of the cities and they would place themselves in ambush behind the corners of the streets; yea, each one would take unto herself a certain corner as her own, and she *would* lie low.

9 And when any man

approached nigh unto the place where she was hid, then would she spring out *on a sudden* and she *would* tackle him.

10 ¶ And she would pin a flag unto his garment, even unto the lapel of *his* coat would she pin her flag; and *whatsoever* money he did have for to buy him bread, *that* would she take from his pouch for to pay her, wherefore he needs did fast.

11 And there was no way of escape open unto him, for the young girls of that time were a slim *lot* and they *knew* the manner of working it.

12 And so it came to pass that, when the night was come, the damsels that had sold them flags were bowed down beneath a great weight of gold. And the men that *had* paid, these were sent empty away.

13 And they returned unto their habi-

tations, each man being wonderfully adorned; yea, from the crowns of their heads unto the *turn-up* of their nether garments *were they* gay with coloured flags.

14 ¶ Now there were certain men that, seeking to throw dust in the eyes of the sellers of flags, did build them dungeons underneath the ground, saying, with a sly look, It will be a safe place if, perchance, a Zeppelin *cometh* nigh.

15 Nevertheless, on a night when the Zeppelins did hover *above them*, then were they on the roofs of their habitations with glasses that did magnify;

16 But on the days that *were* Flag Days, then did they betake themselves stealthily away and they did hide in the far corner of the Zeppelin dungeon that was deepest down.

17 ¶ And because much good flowed from the Flag Days, and be-

cause the number of mites that was gathered in was very great, therefore *did* the people *stick* them, each man giving according to his means.

18 Yea, even those that did retire unto their Zeppelin cellars did give to an *extent*, for the young girls followed them thitherwards, so that there was no means of escape left unto them; verily, they were like unto a spider *that is* caught in the meshes of its own web.

19 ¶ Wherefore it came to pass that when another nation did join with the people of En, and did fight with them against the men of Hu, there were some in the land that did foresee

things, and their hearts misgave them.

20 And when one spake chidingly unto them, saying, Why do ye not rejoice, O men of little satisfaction? Behold, there is yet another that fighteth with us. Then would they make answer and would say, Assuredly is there another ally come to join us. And there is *also* another Flag Day that bringeth greater persecution at the corners of the streets. And they were full of foreboding *concerning it*.

21 But the Flag Days found favour amongst the women of the land, for then was man delivered into their hands and *they needed* not to spare him.

CHAPTER XI.

1 *The young men go out for to fight.* 2 *Many take unto themselves wives.* 11 *Some think it not wise.* 19 *Some transgress the law.* 22 *The matrons are rejoiced.* 23 *All the maidens would wed amongst the officers.* 27 *Concerning the damsels that were left over.*

NOW in the land of En the young men did hurry them away unto the war, and amongst the maidens *there were* many sad at heart.

2 ¶ And when the time drew nigh unto a young man that he must gird up his loins and go, then *would* he speak unto the damsel of his choice.

3 And he would say unto her, Thou knowest that there yet remaineth unto me only *so many* days; let us therefore arrange matters quickly that we *be* married.

4 And because the time was short and *it was* her chance, she would answer and would say unto him, Thou art my lord, and whatsoever thou commandest, it shall be done. Let us therefore hasten *about it* lest, peradventure, we meet with an hindrance upon the way.

5 For the women of that time *were* a crafty lot and they did beguile their men with soft words; and the wiles of Bathsheba, that *did* wash herself, were as nothing *in comparison* to these, for they were full of artfulness.

6 And when she had told her mother and them *that were* about the place, she would take the young man unto the priest for to make *them* a day; and *after* it was in order, then would they go unto the ringmaker and she

would try on whatsoever came unto her hand. Yea, *many* rings would she place upon her finger; but *the ring* that she did choose, that did she not try on, fearing lest it prove unlucky *in the afterwards*.

7 Now it happened in certain cases that the damsel needed not to furnish her with garments for the wedding, inasmuch as she was prepared, being ready *against the occasion*.

8 But when it was not so, then would the damsel set *about* it, and she would make *things* hum. And she and those that were related unto her and her handmaidens also, they would haste them unto the bazaars. And whatsoever was necessary unto the marriage, that thing would they buy; and *of the things* that were not necessary unto the marriage, they would also buy them some of these.

9 And when the last minute was come, then would they send the *old* man for to buy that *which* was forgotten, saying unto him, Get thee quickly, *thou* fool. And he *would* get him quickly.

10 And when the hour was come for the young man to take the damsel unto him, behold, she *was* there. And throughout all the land of En there was no case known of a damsel that *did come* too late.

11 ¶ And because there *was* a great number of them that did wed in this wise, therefore was there much talk *concerning* it, both in the public places and in the habitations of the people.

12 And some *did* say it was a foolish thing to do. And they did speak darkly concerning the future, what it did hide, for it went *for a saying* amongst them that a

marriage *that* is hasty bringeth early regret.

13 And others said, Let the young men wed. Verily, many go forth unto the wars but the number of *them* that return, it is not so great. Therefore is it necessary for them that are of *an age* to make *them* families, else in what manner shall the nation endure.

14 And the young things heeded not these arguments, for they *were* young and did love. And whosoever loveth *enough*, he hath his justification.

15 But woe unto that man who taketh unto himself a wife for the sake of *it*; a million tears will not suffice for to drown *her* in.

16 But he that marieth his beloved in haste, seeking happiness, that man assuredly *hath* a dog's chance; and he that taketh time *about* the business, is not his risk also great?

17 And there *were* some that did marry for love and there *were* some that did marry for a pension; but there *were* some that did marry because it was a discreet thing to do.

18 And the number of them that did marry was *beyond* anything that men could remember, so that the priests did gather them an harvest of *exceeding* richness and they did bless the unions with many pious *words*.

19 ¶ Now certain men did take unto themselves more wives than one, which *was* a wicked thing to do, for in the land of En it was not lawful *for a man* to marry two wives.

20 And this was passing strange, for the seduction of a maiden was a thing that was *winked at*. Yea, the father of a child begotten guiltily, he was absolved by the payment of five pieces of silver every week.

But the man whose wife did bear him a son, his *punishment* was greater than this.

21 And in those days was man judged *according to a rule*, and an hurt transgressing not the rule, that was forgiven unto him. And to marry two wives, *that was* against the rule; but to keep two score of concubines, *that was* a lawful thing to do.

22 ¶ And because there was war, therefore did many mothers *pull off* forlorn hopes at the last minute, which rejoiced them greatly. For there *was* much competition amongst the daughters of En, and *the number* of young men did not suffice for all.

23 ¶ And every maiden did seek for *to get* her an officer, for *these were* great men whom the common soldiers did salute in the public places, so that to walk

with such an one *was* indeed pleasurable.

24 And there was much cackling in all the hen-roosts of the land of En, and *amongst those* families that did get them an officer there were loud manifestations of joy.

25 And the pride of these was *beyond* all telling, and they *would* hold up their heads on high and they *would* say unto them that did live next door, Bow ye down before us and make obeisance. Know ye not that Miriam, our first-born, *hath* taken a captain to husband?

26 And because they *did know it* and because *their* daughter had succeeded only as high as a corporal of the lance, they would bow themselves down and would speak words of flattery, for she that was *wife* unto a captain was a power in the confines of *the cities*.

27 ¶ But there *were*

many maidens that no man took unto him for wife, and the days of these were bitter living; neither did their sisters that had *clicked* refrain from telling them *about it*.

28 Wherefore some of the damsels *that were left over* did journey into the wilderness for to meditate concerning the matter, for the airs of a woman that is married

are *as* a goad unto her that languisheth alone.

29 And so it came to pass that certain *of them* did get them war work from the makers of munitions, and certain *of them* did get them war babies from no man knew whither. Yea, every one did act according to her lights and *did* do all those things that the occasion did demand.

CHAPTER XII.

1 *Concerning those that went not forth for to fight.* 14 *The rulers commune together on the matter.* 17 *And call out all the young men.* 18 *But certain are absolved.* 25 *Wherefore many are combed out.* 29 *And the people are satisfied.* 31 *Each man payeth for his own strong drink.*

AND when the fighters had gone forth unto the war, there yet remained *certain men* that were strong and sound of limb. And every man that went not forth, *he had* his reason.

2 And some said, To kill men in battle is a wicked *thing*. Would ye therefore have us *to go* against our consciences?

3 And when the people questioned these, they replied unto them, saying, The wise man giveth obedience unto his conscience lest it torment him; neither is

there any escape from it. And we are men of wisdom.

4 And if one of the men of Hu shall ravish our eldest daughter, *then* shall we offer unto him she *that is* next unto her that he may ravish her also; for so it is written.

5 And they that questioned them forbore to ask them more, deeming a conscience *such as this* was assuredly come from the devil.

6 And there were some that, being affrighted, hid themselves away. And the number *of these* was small and, when *the time* came, they were *combed out*.

7 And there were others that were grown selfish, because they *did* gain much recompense by their labours, and these were loth to leave their habitations. And they did say,

8 Wherefore should we go forth for to fight? In our houses *there are* many fires and the women do put them hot bricks into our beds so *that* our feet suffer not when the night groweth cold.

9 And if we go out for to fight, verily, the rain from heaven will fall upon us and it will *make* us wet. And a skin *that* is wet affecteth the nose.

10 And the food that we shall eat, it will lie *heavy* upon our stomachs; neither will the women sustain us with hot bricks.

11 And because of all these things, they went not forth unto the war *until* the time came when they were *combed* out.

12 And there were many men throughout the land that were willing to go at *the time* appointed, each *man* in his turn.

13 And these did say,

Wherefore should we depart from our habitations and wherefore leave our wives amongst strange people? Send first the young men *that are* hanging back; and, afterwards, when our time *cometh*, we shall be ready. And ye shall find us in the forefront of the battle.

14 ¶ And because that which they had said was just, therefore the rulers of the land could not gainsay them. And they communed together in the council chamber *concerning it*.

15 And some, knowing not *the spirit* of the people, did say, Let us now do nothing rash lest, if we call up all the young men, they raise an outcry throughout the land.

16 But there were others that said, *It is* sufficient that we have need of men for to send against the enemy. Let us therefore *see about it*.

17 ¶ And they over-

ruled those that *were* against them, and did make them a law whereby all the young men were called out for to fight.

18 ¶ But they absolved them that were in the workshops making the munitions of war, and acquitted them also *that were* plagued with a conscience.

19 And because the men of Ire said, We will not *have* it, therefore the rulers dared not to say *them* nay, for the men of Ire were rulers in the land of En.

20 And they appointed them tribunals, a mixed lot of men, so that *those* that were called out might show them a *reason* against it.

21 And because the net that was spread in the sight of the young men was wide *in the* mesh, therefore was the haul thereof fraught with disappointment. And the young men did work themselves free in

ways that *were* various.

22 And some hied them unto the workshops to become makers of munitions of war, saying, the one unto the other, *By this means*, assuredly, shall we save our skins. And for a long time *it was* so.

23 And others did cry their woes before the tribunals. And *the tales* that they did tell were pitiful indeed, and they did move the tribunals unto compassion *so that* they absolved them.

24 And the rulers, that did *ought* to set an example, made lusty youths for to be their scribes, and they did put them for to do women's work. And the number *of them* that were absolved in this wise became a crying shame that was *heard* throughout all the land.

25 ¶ And when the rulers were questioned hotly *concerning* these men and *concerning* those that had hidden

themselves behind the rampart that *was* munitions, they bestirred themselves somewhat and did *comb* them out.

26 And the number that they did *comb* out was very great. And because they had not done *this thing* before, but had waited until the people raised them a clamour, therefore were the rulers blamed exceedingly.

27 Nevertheless, those that rebelled against it because they did have consciences, *these* were not sent out for to fight.

28 But some of them were set to work upon *matters of health*, which was a loathsome duty and abhorred by them who, *being* without a conscience, went out against the enemy.

29 ¶ And when all the men that *were* of full vigour had been *taken*, there was an end to the murmuring of the people.

30 And all were of

one mind that this thing should have been done before, for they saw that the taking was just, no man suffering beyond his neighbour, and every man fighting for his own.

31 ¶ Now it was made a law that whosoever should enter into a tavern for to buy him strong drink, that man must pay for *his own*.

32 And there were some, being them that drank beyond their means, that had a grievance *because* of it, for to pay for *their own*, they had forgotten the way.

33 Wherefore they did suffer exceedingly and *were* for ever dry; and *their* look, it was a thirsty one.

34 And when *the damsels* heard about it, they set them out for to find *a means* to circumvent it, for the thing was not agreeable unto them.

35 And when a maiden approached unto a tavern, being with a

man that had a leaning *towards* her, then would she stop outside, and she would say unto him, Give thou unto me five pieces of silver that I may pay for *mine own*. And whatsoever remaineth over, that will I give thee back after *we are* come out.

36 And they would enter into a tavern. And she would call the serving man unto her and she would speak unto him in a soft voice, saying, Bring unto me a small portion of *that* wine which cometh from Oporto that I may nourish my bones.

37 And the serving man would bring it unto her, and he would set it down before her. And the damsel *would* pay for it out of the five pieces of silver that she had received from her

man. And whatsoever was left over, *that* would she place in her purse.

38 And *afterwards*, she would smile upon the man that was with her, and she would say unto him, Thy beard becometh thee well. Thou art strong and thy wisdom is great and thine eyes absorb me *utterly*. Verily doth thine handmaiden feel small in the sight of her lord.

39 All this would she say unto him, and more also; but concerning *that which* was remaining over from the five pieces of silver she would say no word.

40 And this is ever the way of women that by their artfulness they do *wangle it*, and whatsoever cometh up *contrary*, that do they work for to be an advantage unto them.

CHAPTER XIII.

1 *Concerning David. 7 His unpopularity amongst certain of the people. 9 The rulers disagree. 11 David speaketh out. 14 He findeth favour with his enemies. 17 The things that he did do. 24 He reacheth unto high office. 27 The Pharisees fall away from him. 29 His greatness.*

NOW there was a certain man and his name was David, and his place *was* amongst the rulers of the land of En.

2 Though small of stature, yet was he of a fiery spirit, and the hair upon his face was as the bristles of a badger *that is* roused.

3 And his tongue was for ever loose and did wag itself continually, being like unto the tail of a small dog that scenteth its food *from* afar.

4 Now David was one of them that *did* come from the land of Cam, but the language of his kindred did he speak only upon occasion;

5 And at other *times* he did speak as the men of En, save only when he delivered him a warning unto them that would *butt* in; and in such case his words were those of the land of Amer.

6 Now at the time when Willi did lead out his hosts for to fight, David *was* the chief tax gatherer in the land of En.

7 ¶ And his name was an abomination throughout the land. Men cursed him in the market places, in the sight of the publicans he was a thing unclean, and *his* name stank vilely in the nostrils of the priests.

8 Verily, to love En and David both, was not

thought possible by many. Only amongst the Pharisees was it not so, and *these men* of little mind did glorify him with a great praise.

9 ¶ Now it came to pass when the rulers of the land of En took counsel, the one with the other, concerning whether they should *make* them a war, there were some that did say, Let us make a war, for an honourable pledge *demandeth* fulfilment; nought can absolve a nation from *its* plighted word, and we are *what* we are.

10 And there were others *that were* the Pharisees, and they did say, Why hasten ye towards the shedding of men's blood? Better a peace that obeyeth divine precept than a war *that* upholdeth the word of a nation.

11 ¶ And when David heard the things that the Pharisees did say, behold, he arose from

his seat in the council chamber and spake unto all *them* that were there.

12 And he lashed the Pharisees with his tongue, sparing them not. And because he was *of* them, therefore were the words that he did say unto them passing apt, so that they *did* wriggle in their seats as worms *that are* upon an hot plate.

13 And them that would preserve the nation's honour at a cost *of* blood, these did he sustain with the strength of his doings and the whole might of *his* oratory.

14 ¶ And *when* the publicans and the priests and those that had cursed him in the market places were told what he had *done*, they were amazed that such a thing could come to pass.

15 And they said unto each other, What manner of man is this

that hath for so long *been* against us, yet now speaketh our very minds?

16 And they raised him up and made him *to be* ruler over them, and he did find more favour amongst those people than he had found amongst the Pharisees in the time that *was* gone.

17 ¶ And it came to pass that whatsoever *there was* to be done, that thing did David do; verily, his capacities were as manifold as the lies of a woman accused.

18 And they made him chief over the munitioners, and he did make him engines of war and instruments of siege, and other implements of battle *also*, the quantity whereof exceeded calculation.

19 And nobody throughout all the land excelled him in energy and in ingenuity of the mind. And he did even

make the workers to work; and this *was* a thing that was never *before* known in the land of En.

20 And when the men of Ire, *because* they were never content, waxed angry, the one with the other, and there was like to be rebellion amongst them, and there *was* need of a mediator for to judge between them,

21 Then the choice of the people fell upon David, and they did send him unto the land of Ire for to speak the soft word *that* charmeth away wrath.

22 And David went. And after he had finished speaking unto the men of Ire, he returned him unto his seat amongst the rulers.

23 And because *he was* the first man that did go for to pacify the men of Ire, yet stirred not up further strife, therefore was his name honoured above any,

and poets did sing his praises on the feast days *of the Eisteddfod*.

24 ¶ And the rulers did choose him to succeed unto a great soldier, and they did place him over the hosts of En, making of him a mighty captain. And *because* the people would have none other, therefore was he chosen.

25 And the work that was *already* begun, that did he continue. And he did make the hosts of En great beyond all conception, and the strength of En was as the foundations of the earth.

26 And his popularity with the people did grow day by day, wherefore men said, in jest, Behold, here *cometh* David, George that is the Sixth. And they that had hated him before did worship him as a god.

27 ¶ But the Phari-

sees knew not what to do, for he was become as a revelation unto them. Therefore did they say very little *concerning* him; and when it happened that they had occasion to utter his name, then would they do so *with a sniff upon* the word.

28 For *such* is the way of the Pharisees. And these do place peace above the honour of a nation and an unctuous word before the doing of a thing that is right. And in them there is no stomach for the fray.

29 ¶ But David cared not at all for such as these, and there was no man greater in all the land. And when *the* time came, he did sit upon the highest seat amongst the rulers of the land, because he was the chosen of the people, and they would have none other.

CHAPTER XIV.

1 *The implements of war.* 8 *The engines that did fly.* 14 *Concerning the Mad Major.* 25 *The men of En employ tanks.* 34 *Wherefore the men of Hu cry out.*

NOW *these be* the implements of war, and all these things did men use at that time when the nations of the earth banded themselves together for the fight.

2 Now there were guns of great magnitude that *did* hit hard so that there was nothing that could withstand them, and, against them, the fortifications of the cities *were* as snow when the sun cometh out.

3 And the guns did scatter death on *all* sides, above and about, so that there was no living thing left nigh unto the place where they *did* strike; and the compass of a gun, it was *beyond*

the sight of human eye.

4 And there were mines that the engineers did make them *underneath* the ground; and all that which was above the ground, *that* did they scatter unto the heavens so that when it returned again to earth, behold, it *was* not.

5 Also was there gas, and it was made of a vile poison; and when any man did deeply breathe of it, that man would most assuredly die; and the manner of his death, it *was* terrible.

6 And they that first made use of the gas that was poison *were* the men of Hu, for it was *in them* to do so because their minds did travel unto such things.

7 And there was liquid that *was* fire, and it was sent against an host for to burn up the flesh of *them* that came

in the way. And this was also *from* the men of Hu and was bred of their refinement. And neither of these things did the nations of Eur use in any war that they did wage *before*.

8 ¶ And there were engines that did fly through the air, fearsome weapons of war that *did* deal out death and destruction from an ambush of clouds.

9 And they were of two kinds. And the Zeps *were* fat-bellied, being of the men of Hu.

10 These did carry on their goings out a great weight of *matter* that *was* death. And they did drop it *at a venture* so that it fell amongst peaceful dwellers in the land; and the women and children that did perish by this means, it *was* a great number.

11 And there were also engines that did fly which men called planes: and *these* were of both sides. And they

were speedy things *and* nimble.

12 And those that did ride in them were brave men and skilful. And the men of Hu prospered not with the planes save only *in the* flight, at which they were exceeding quick.

13 And so there came a time when the men of Hu forbore to go up into the air for to fight *because* the hazard of such an enterprise, it was very great.

14 ¶ Now the bravery of the warriors of En that did ride in the planes was in the mouths of all the peoples of the earth. And there was one whom men *did call* the Mad Major because of his daring.

15 And it was said concerning him that he and death played them a long game wherein the dice were loaded on *the side of* death.

16 And he would venture forth and would fly

from the camp of the men of En until he *came* unto a place whence he could see the hosts of Hu *spread out* beneath him.

17 Then would he choose him a target from amongst the strong *places* that were below, and he would swoop him down *on a sudden* so that he was but a few cubits on high.

18 And the men of Hu would use *all* manner of weapons against him, and they would send projectiles that did scatter *about* for to bring him down amongst them.

19 Yea, from the places that *were* nigh unto him and from the places that *were* afar off would they send of their munition, seeking only that they might slay him. And the heavens were filled with a multitude of balls so that men said, Verily, in the place *where* he is, in that place only is it pos-

sible for man to live.

20 And when he that was called the Mad Major was *low enough*, then would he drop him a bomb. And it came to pass that all that which was *underneath*, it was destroyed, and the men that *were* there did assuredly perish.

21 Then would he ascend into the air unto a certain height, for that which he had come for to do, *it was* done.

22 And he would loop him *a loop*; yea, even over the hosts of Hu would he loop him *a loop*, for he was of a merry spirit and it was *in him* to laugh in this manner.

23 And when he had looped him *a loop* he would return unto the men of En, and he *would* say unto them, The bombs that thou gavest unto me *went off*. Give me, therefore, some more that I may dispose of *them* in like-wise.

24 And he was not alone in the things that he did do, for there *were* many like unto him. And concerning the deeds of some thou shalt find it writ in the books; but concerning many, thou shalt find no record of *their* deeds in the chronicles of that time.

25 ¶ And the men of En did make them chariots of strange and wonderful design, and they *did* call them tanks. And there was no man throughout all the land that did say, I made not this chariot; but every man did draw his neighbour *unto the side*, and did speak unto him privily, saying, Shush! Let it not be known. I tell thee that I, even I, did take *an hand* in this thing.

26 And the shape of the tanks was for a long time known only to the few. And some said they were *like unto* a lizard that is blown out

mightily, that walketh as a man plagued with *the* corns.

27 And others said they were *like unto* an hippopotamus that doth wobble itself amazingly so that no man knoweth whither it intendeth; yet, *of a certainty*, doth it get there.

28 And others said they were *like unto* nothing on earth, being for the most part belly of a fashion *that is* given unto no living thing.

29 And that *which* was a shield and a covering unto the tanks was tough past all belief; yea, even the hide of the rhinoceros did not compare unto this. And all the missiles that the men of Hu did send *against it* were as peas upon a roof that *is* whole, and it availed them nothing.

30 And in its gait it was like unto a man that hath taken strong drink, having first devoured much rice. For in such case does the belly grow

big and the footsteps do *become* unsteady. Wherefore it was a thing for laughter amongst the men of En; but in the hosts of Hu it was a thing for fear.

31 And men told strange tales of the *things* that it did do. And it was said that upon an occasion it did sally forth and, in its adventuring, it *did* meet with an habitation.

32 And it did go up unto the habitation and it *did* look upon it. And it did go *against* the habitation *with a purpose* so that the walls did fall about it and there was ruination on all sides.

33 And after it had shaken itself free from all that *which* had fallen upon it, it did betake itself with modesty unto another place as a man that is overcome with shyness and seeketh to

pass it over. Verily, it recked *nothing* of the thing that it had done.

34 ¶ Wherefore, and because it did smite them hip and thigh, sparing not any man that did come up against it, the men of Hu *were* afraid, and they did cry out with loud lamentations, saying, Why do ye so despitefully *use* us? Know ye not that it is not *in the war* to do these things?

35 And because men *knew* them, they heeded not their groans, so that it availed them nothing; and the tank remained a thing of terror throughout all their hosts.

36 And in this thing the men of En *were* first amongst all the fighters of Eur, for *it was* new. And the people rejoiced, being satisfied that it was given unto them as a sign that the rulers were *becoming* awake.

CHAPTER XV.

1 *Concerning the land of Amer. 4 And the ruler thereof. 11 Certain men of Amer are slain. 12 Wudro, the son of Wyl, writeth an epistle. 26 He writeth again. 27 He writeth many times. 28 Certain men do question him. 38 He revealeth himself.*

NOW the land of Amer was at the other side of the sea *that is* Atlantic, and it was many days' sail in a ship from the island of En.

2 And the bounds of that land were set far apart, and the people that did live there were more numerous than the waves of all the seas.

3 And it was a fertile land of extreme fruitfulness, and the earth *underneath* it yielded precious metals in abundance. And the people were for ever extolling its greatness *amongst*

the nations of the earth.

4 ¶ Now the ruler of the land of Amer was a certain man and his name was Wudro, the son of Wyl; and it happened in *this* wise.

5 Whilst Wudro, the son of Wyl, was tending his flock of young men in the pasture *that is* knowledge, and after he had taught them how they should go and what things they should know,

6 Behold, the men of Amer came unto him, saying, We have chosen thee for to rule over us; and we have *brought* thee an high hat for to wear as the badge of thine office; and the size of the hat, *it is* six seven-eighths.

7 And because he knew not what he was letting himself *in for*, he gave way to their importuning, and did put on the high hat, the *size*

whereof was six seven-eighths.

8 And it came to pass that when the men of En fought against the men of Hu, they did send messengers unto the land of Amer for to buy them munitions for the war. And they took *with them* gold in great quantity wherewith to satisfy the merchants that did sell unto them. Therefore did the land of Amer prosper exceedingly.

9 Now when the men of Hu found out that *there was* peril in the enterprise, they forbore to send out vessels of war for to fight; in place thereof, they did send them out for to murder those that *were* peaceful and did *sail* the seas without any weapon *wherewith* to defend themselves.

10 And coming upon a large ship unawares, they did send it unto the bottom of the sea so that all *they* that did travel

upon it were cast into the waters for to drown. Yea, even the women and children that were aboard the vessel, all these perished miserably, and the men of Hu did watch their struggles with death unheeding.

11 ¶ Now amongst those that the men of Hu did slay there were *certain* men of the land of Amer.

12 ¶ And when word was brought unto Wudro, the son of Wyl, *concerning* it, and how the men of Hu had slain his servants, he waxed very wroth. And he betook himself unto a quiet place, *fearing lest* in the height of his indignation he should do violence unto *any* man.

13 And although he was enraged *beyond* endurance, nevertheless he was a patient man withal.

14 Therefore he did sit him down *and* he did write an epistle unto

Willi, being him that ruled over *the men* of Hu.

15 And he said *unto him*, Knowest thou not that thy servants have slain certain of the men of Amer *because* they did sail upon the sea?

16 And Willi answered him, saying, Verily, all that thou sayest is true. Let us therefore put on sackcloth and ashes, and rend our garments, for it is *a day* of mourning unto thee, and I, *also*, am full of sorrow because of it.

17 And when Wudro, the son of Wyl, heard all that Willi had said, and how he made answer unto him in soft words, he knew not what to do, for *he was* a peaceable man *and* the land of Amer was prospering greatly.

18 So he sat him down and did write unto Willi again, saying unto him, Thy tears *are* as an healing ointment. But *the thing* that thou

hast done, that shalt thou do not again, *for* there is a penalty unto it. Take heed, therefore, and obey, for I am a terrible man, and fierce.

19 And Willi answered him and did say, Thou *hast* said so and so, for I have *seen* it with mine own eyes. Let us now speak *concerning* other matters.

20 And he called unto him a messenger and did command him to deliver the epistle unto the ruler of the land of Amer.

21 And after he was gone, he set to work secretly and did *make* him preparation, for it was his intendment to do again *that thing* regarding which Wudro, the son of Wyl, had forewarned him.

22 And when the opportunity came, he did sink more ships, and he did leave those that were *on them* to perish. And because they were all

vessels of peace, and without armour, therefore was he strong *against them*.

23 And a messenger came unto Wudro, the son of Wyl, in hot haste, and he told him of the things that Willi had done and *how that* he had slain yet more of the men of Amer.

24 And *because* he was much agitated at the tidings that were brought unto him, *therefore* did Wudro, the son of Wyl, swear an oath, making divers new words for the occasion.

25 And he said unto the courier, The matter *concerning which* thou hast spoken unto me is fraught with evil consequences, for I will write unto Willi another epistle, and I will use mighty words, and I *will* affright him. Also, there shall be *an afterwards*.

26 ¶ So he sat him down and did write unto Willi another epistle;

and the words *of it* were so terrifying that the hand of his scribe *did* tremble even in the putting of it down.

27 ¶ And for a long time it came to pass that whenever Willi did slay any of the men of Amer, *then* did Wudro, the son of Wyl, send an epistle unto him, abounding in fearsome words and writ upon one *side* of the paper only.

28 ¶ And certain men, *being* of a curious mind, questioned him, saying, It is true that the epistles that thou writest are things *for* terror, and that *the man* who reads them, his blood becometh frozen so that it circulateth not.

29 And it is true, also, that the things which thou threatenest *are* dire. But the *things* that thou doest, what are they? Is it not an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth? Yet thou hast sold our lives *for* gold. Thy threats

are idle, and thy words serve but to tickle, not to scratch.

30 And Wudro, the son of Wyl, *having* knowledge, did reason with them. And he spake unto them in these words, *saying*: What mean ye? Are not the epistles to your liking? Are not my words strong *and* well chosen, and is not my meaning plain to all?

31 And they answered him, saying, Verily, these things are so. Have we not said it? Nevertheless, the man that is wounded by a word, he *sheweth* no scar. *How then* is the marksman to know?

32 And hast thou not perceived that Willi laughs at thee before thy face; and, *behind* thy back, he doth extend his fingers towards thee, pointing them *from* the apex of his nostrils.

33 At thy threats doth he scoff aloud, and

thy servants doth he use *in a manner* that is abominable.

34 If these things find not favour in thine eyes, send forth thine hosts that he may know that *there is* might behind thy write.

35 And Wudro, the son of Wyl, did loose his tongue *upon them* and he upbraided them soundly, saying, Am I a fool and a blind man *that* rule over you?

36 Wherefore, then, should ye upbraid me, and who are ye to choose *the time*? Verily, I say *unto you* that a lack of understanding, it shineth from your eyes. And your words, they are wanting *of* any wisdom.

37 But I am trusted of my people; neither shall I betray that trust *because* of your importuning. And when he had spoken unto them in this wise, he sent them away. And he satisfied *them* not on that day.

CHAPTER XVI.

1 *Wudro delivereth a warning.* 5 *Willi seeketh advice.* 9 *And taketh it.* 10 *Wudro acteth according to his word.* 11 *Whereat Willi is amazed.* 13 *He speaketh boastfully.* 17 *Wudro setteth about the matter.* 22 *He frighteneth Willi.* 23 *Who perceiveth the blessings of peace.*

NOW the longest rope,
it hath an end.
Wherefore it came to
pass in time that
Wudro, the son of Wyl,
did send unto Willi,
that was the King of
the Hu, and he said
unto him,

2 Such things and
such things hast thou
done, *all these* being
against thy plighted
word; and thine iniquity,
it hath tormented
me for a long time past.
Now, therefore, hearken
unto me, *and* pay attention:

3 Because I am a

man of peace, therefore
have I borne with thee
long enough; and I am
become sick unto death
with thy carryings on.
And the blood of my
murdered people, it
crieth out for retribution.

4 Take heed, *therefore*,
and mend the evil
of thy ways, for, *on the*
next occasion, assuredly
shalt thou rue the day.

5 And when Willi
had heard *these* things
that Wudro, the son of
Wyl, did say unto him,
he sent in haste unto his
chief captains, and he
did commune *with them.*

6 And he questioned
them closely concerning
the words of Wudro.
And he said unto them,
Think ye that this man,
he meaneth *anything?*

7 And they made
answer unto him, saying,
Be of good cheer
and heed him not, for
he is a man that acteth

only *according to* his advantage. And to make war, it would advantage him nothing. For the land of Amer, it prospereth exceedingly; and the miller turneth not away *that stream* which worketh his wheel.

8 Also, he liveth afar off and his servants, *they are* unready. Verily, the threats of such an one, they be full of emptiness; and whatsoever he sayeth, that hath he *also* said before. *Nevertheless*, we will smite him *because* of it when the time is ripe.

9 And after Willi had heard all the things that the captains of his host did say unto him, his heart was rejoiced *within* him, and he said unto them, Assuredly are ye men after mine own understanding. Let us, therefore, see *about* it. And they did see *about* it.

10 And when word

was brought unto Wudro concerning these things and how Willi *did* set his warning at naught, making mock of his threats, then was he very wroth, and he cried out in the violence of his anger, saying, Am I, then, Job, *that be* born again, to be tormented thus?

11 And he *straightway* called the people unto him, and he spake unto them. And after he had told them *everything*, he said unto them, Is it, therefore, *a matter for* war? And they answered him with a mighty voice, saying, It is *a matter for* war.

12 And when Willi heard what was come to pass, *he was* amazed, and his knees, they did tremble beneath him. And he commanded his servants that they should bring unto him the brazen mask, being part of the royal attire; and *he did* put it on.

13 And after that it was *on*, he did raise his voice on high, and he spake, saying,

14 What of the land of Amer? And what of it? Verily, a pin that lieth in *the way*, it is of more account than a spike that lifteth its head *at a distance*.

15 And the iron heel of Hu, it levelleth all things; neither shall *any man* dare to withstand it.

16 And when he had finished speaking, he sent out messengers *unto* the four corners of the earth, instructing them that they should tell *these things* unto all people, for he was a boastful fellow and a braggart, *for ever* holding forth in large manner for to be heard of all the world.

17 Now Wudro, the son of Wyl, *after that* he had made him war, he cried not out from the housetops what things he would do, but

he gat him about it for *to do* them.

18 And he opened wide the strings of his purse so that the shekels, they gushed *forth* as the waters of a brook after rain.

19 And he sent much munition of war unto them that were *with him*, and he commanded his physicians that they should go out for to succour the wounded.

20 And he *did send* his vessels of war also, which were useful things and ready *for* the fray. And of men that did fly *in the* air, he sent also *of these*, an eager band *and* valiant.

21 Neither was he backward in the matter of food, making due provision in *all* things. And he did set him about it for to build him an army, a mighty host *such as* never before was seen. And he rested him not, neither in the day nor in the night did he rest him.

doing *always* those things that were requisite *for the* undertaking.

22 And when word was brought unto Willi that Wudro, he had taken the coat from off his back, and that he was labouring without any respite, he grew sore afraid, and *he did* shake all over with the violence of the tremble of his knees.

23 And when he was recovered by a potion of strong drink, he *did* call the Ministers of State unto his chamber, and he spake unto them, saying, Is there no one *now* amongst the men of peace *that will* raise his voice against this bloody war?

24 And, lo, straightway, *there was* a voice, and it spake concerning peace. And it was

blown along by the wind, even unto the land of Amer *was it* blown.

25 And when it was come unto the ears of Wudro, that was the son of Wyl, he made answer unto it, and he did say, Verily, it hath a goodly sound. *Nevertheless*, this peace, it shall not come to pass, for the king of Hu, *he hath* a lying tongue, and his plighted word, hath he not broken it before?

26 And because he is *what* he is, therefore shall the compact of peace be made only with that man which *he* is not.

27 And the words of Wudro, they were blown along by the wind, even back from the land of Amer *were they* blown on the wings of the wind.

CHAPTER XVII.

TAKE heed, my son, and hearken unto the words of Artemas, for there *are* many that will give thee counsel, yet wisdom *cometh* only from the few.

2 Put not thy trust in princes, for their bond is of paper that teareth *easily*. And their plighted word melteth like butter, before the heat of their necessity.

3 Beware of the king whose pledge runneth *away* like water, for the skins of such shall paper the walls of hell.

4 A man devoured of ambition, he lieth easily; nevertheless, *there cometh* a time when even fools believe him not.

5 Beware of the woman that followeth thee about, for she is *after* thy regimental buttons.

6 And if she is safe,

then is she a fool; but if she is *otherwise*, then is she the devil.

7 A woman hunteth thee. She lieth in wait to surprise thee, and will *out upon* thee when the time cometh.

8 Flee unto the mountains; pitch thou thy tent *afar* in the wilderness; take thou sail across the waters until thou comest unto a strange coast. Nevertheless, *because* she has marked thee down, *therefore* will she have thee.

9 When thou goest forth for to fight, take care that thou smitest thine enemy in the back, for *it is* the mark of a good fighter so to do.

10 Also, he that shooteth his enemy *through* the head sheddeth light upon his understanding.

11 When the foe doth stand two in a line,

shoot thou thy bolt, for then will thine execution be twofold. Verily I say unto thee, *Await* thine opportunity, for a shell in time is as good as a mine.

12 Remember, my son, that the sum of two and two *maketh* four; yet in the reports of thine enemy thou shalt find it otherwise.

13 And because *the pen* is mightier than the sword, therefore believe it not, else shalt thou surely be deceived.

14 Verily I say unto thee, Blessed is the man that *hath* imagination, for his country *shall* win many battles.

15 Take ye heed of *the* lone voice, for in a multitude of counsellors thou *shalt* find confusion.

16 And an arsenal that is full of munitions is better than an hundred rulers full of words.

17 Hearken not unto the boasting of thine

enemy and regard him not, for no man knoweth what *the day* may bring forth.

18 And in the time of its adversity the soul of a country revealeth *itself*.

19 Get thee about it and do things, for the voice of the sluggard dieth in his throat, but the worker is heard from afar off.

20 Make thou thy task according to thy strength, for no man that weareth costly teeth doth gnaw at the bones of an elephant.

21 Make *thy life* wisely, O my son, lest thy neighbours speak ill concerning thee. And if thou shouldst stray *from* the narrow path, remember the other, that *it is* of sand.

22 Wherefore, *tread* lightly. For he that leaveth his footprint *behind*, his foolishness condemns him. But the *prudent* sinner is exalted unto heaven, and

his name, it exaleth a very sweet perfume.

23 For whosoever sups with the devil *in a place* where men pass by, shall he not, *therefore*, turn out the light?

24 Woe unto the peacemongers that entice thee *with* words, for these do seek thine undoing.

25 Thy way leadeth over stony ground, and to go back, it is *the manner* of a coward.

26 For whosoever setteth his hand to the plow, he shall not turn back; and he that finisheth a furrow, *he hath* not plowed the field.

27 What man gathereth him the blossom of the apple tree? Rather doth he wait until the fruit cometh, big and full of juice; then doth he eat of it.

28 Avoid thou them that seek to divide the people, one against the

other, for *they are* traitors in the land.

29 Turn not away from instruction, O my son, but open thine ears full wide, for wisdom maketh a fair mistress *and* she is youthful for all time.

30 And he that followeth after her, his life shall be well ordered and his affairs shall fall out *just so*.

31 Thou shalt rule *thy* comings in and *thy* goings out according to circumstance, so that nothing ariseth amiss; for a thirst *that is* born at a proper time, it maketh the publican smile; but a thirst that cometh late is an affliction unto him that *hath* it.

32 Take heed, my son, and hearken unto the words of Artemas, for there *are* many that will give thee counsel, yet wisdom *cometh* only from the few.

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